



# Westlands Water District

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December 18, 2015

*This notice contains important information about the following:*

- **CVP Water Supply Update**
- **Supplemental Water Update**
- **Revised Water Rates and Charges**
- **Low Interest Irrigation Equipment Lease Program**
- **State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program**
- **Assessments and Land-Based Charges**
- **Lease of District Owned Land**
- **Holiday Office Closures & Water Ordering Procedures**
- **Happy Holidays**

## **CVP Water Supply Update**

District staff expects that the initial allocation to Central Valley Project south-of-Delta agricultural water service contractors will be 0% for the 2016-2017 water contract year. If wet hydrologic conditions persist on the San Joaquin River watershed in January, February, and March, then the allocation could be greater than zero. However, any allocation to agricultural water service contractors would likely be made in the spring.

The CVP currently has approximately 2.34 million acre feet of water in key reservoirs; this represents approximately 40% of the 15-year average. Storage in Shasta Reservoir is approximately 1.36 million acre-feet; 58% of normal for this time of year. Federal storage in San Luis Reservoir is approximately 77,000 acre-feet; 15% of the 15-year average. Jones Pumping Plant is currently operating at 10% of capacity and has pumped approximately 14,000 acre-feet thus far in December.

## **Supplemental Water Update**

The District received timely 2015-2016 Supplemental Water applications for approximately 268,000 acre-feet on 411,800 acres. The District anticipates that it will fulfill about 100,000-110,000 acre-feet of the Supplemental Water requests. The majority of Supplemental Water will not be allocated until the end of the water contract year. The District has allocated 25,000 acre-feet to-date. The delivered cost to water users is estimated to be approximately \$1,300 per acre-foot.

Implementation of the Bureau of Reclamation's temperature management plan delayed the conveyance of transfer water purchased by the District. Though some transfer water has been conveyed, final accounting of transfers has not occurred. The District, Reclamation, and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority expect to be able to complete all necessary tasks to ensure that all of the District's transfer water is conveyed south-of-Delta this water contract year.

## **Revised Water Rates and Charges**

In November, the Board of Directors revised some of the 2015-2016 Water Rates and Charges and their effective dates. The following revisions were approved:

- Trinity Public Utilities District Assessment, \$1.65 per AF, effective July 1, 2015.
- Restoration Fund, \$10.21 per AF, effective October 1, 2015.
- San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority, \$88.81 per AF, effective March 1, 2015.
- The District's Municipal and Industrial Water Rate, \$629.79 per AF, effective March 1, 2015.

The new rates were implemented on the November water billing statements that were mailed early in December and due December 28, 2015. The revised rates are available on the District's website at <http://www.wwd.ca.gov>, under the *Water Management* section, or by calling Customer Accounting at (559) 241-6250.

### **Low Interest Irrigation Equipment Lease Program**

The District's Expanded Irrigation System Improvement Program (EISIP) offers low interest loans at 3.1% to water users for the lease-purchase of irrigation system equipment. EISIP funds up to \$130,000 towards the purchase of irrigation system equipment, the design of irrigation system and purchase of portable aluminum irrigation pipe, micro irrigation, linear move and center pivots. Interested water users should contact Israel Sanchez at (559) 241-6237 to begin the application process.

### **State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program**

In addition to the District's EISIP program, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has announced a competitive application process for its 2016 State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) for projects that implement on-farm irrigation systems that reduce energy use resulting in greenhouse gas emission reductions and water savings. The CDFA anticipates awarding up to \$16 million directly to agriculture operations for eligible projects. Grant applications are due by Friday, January 8, 2016, by 5:00 pm PST. For detailed information on eligibility and program requirement, please visit: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SWEEP](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/SWEEP).

### **Assessments and Land-Based Charges**

The 2015 Repayment Contract Assessments were delinquent after November 19, 2015. They now are subject to a 5% penalty. Land-based charges were due March 25, 2015 for the first installment and September 25, 2015 for the second installment. Unpaid assessments and land-based charges will result in the interruption of water service to the water user until payment is received. Contact Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212 for payoff amounts.

### **Lease of District Owned Land**

The District still has land available for lease. For a detailed list of available land, please contact Cork McIsaac of Agriculture Industries, Inc. at (916) 372-5595 or (800) 822-1415.

### **Holiday Office Closures & Water Ordering Procedures**

District offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 and 25, for the Christmas holiday; Friday, January 1 for New Year's Day and Monday, January 18, 2016 in observance of Martin Luther King Day. The affected water ordering deadlines are as follows:

<b>For Water Use On</b>	<b>Place Water Order By</b>
Thursday or Friday - December 24 or 25	Wednesday, December 23, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, Sunday or Monday - December 26, 27 or 28	Wednesday, December 23, noon
Friday or Saturday - January 1 or 2	Thursday, December 31, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday or Monday - January 3 or 4	Wednesday, December 31, noon
Saturday or Sunday - January 16 or 17	Friday, January 15, 9:30 a.m.
Monday or Tuesday - January 18 or 19	Friday, January 15, noon

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The emergency telephone number for after hours and holidays is (559) 224-1523.

**Happy Holidays**

From all the staff at the District, have a safe and happy holiday season!

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